(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has a time-bound programme for completion of this conversion work; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether allocations for this work are commensurate with that time-frame; and

(d) the status of extension of this project to Somnath and Kodinar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval rail line has been taken up where earthwork, bridge works, ballast supply etc. are in various stages of progress. Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Junagarh is targeted for completion during 2002-2003. Rs. 37.32 crore has been spent on this work upto March 2002 and an outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been provided during 2002-2003.

Target for completion of entire project has not yet been fixed. the project will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) The survey for extension of this line upto Kodinar has been completed. The report is under examination. However, Government has approved extension of this line upto Somnath.

Maintenance of rail tracks

2493. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent annually by each Railway Division on rail track and related feature maintenance; and

(b) the number of maintenance projects underway under each Division and the estimated time taken for each project to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) (a) A Statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is regularly inspected and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. However, safety is ensured at all levels and at all times and the Permanent Way Supervisors are

authorized to impose speed restriction as warranted without any reference to their superiors.

Renewal of track is also carried out on age-cum-condition basis depending upon availability of funds. In certain cases, the maximum permissible speed of a section is also reduced if the condition so warrants.

The track renewals works are presented to Parliament for approval.

The works sanctioned against renewals are normally completed in time span of 3-4 years subject to availability of funds.

Statement

Details of amount spent during 2001-02 by each Railway Division on track maintenance

(*Rs. in crores*)

Railways		Divisions and Amount spent during 2001-02							
Central Division	Mumbai	Bhusawal	Jhansi	Jabalpur	Nagpur	Solapur	Bhopal	Pune	
		(CST)							
	Amount	37.44	41.67	44.48	47.48	31.74	18.07	30.05	7.57
Eastern Division	Howrah	Sealdah	Asansol	Dhanbad	Danapur	Mughal Sarai	Malda		
	Amount	33.28	29.42	37.14	44.80	30.78	23.38	13.51	
Northern Divisions		Allahabad	Bikaner	Delhi	Ambala	Ferozpur	Moradabad	Lucknow	Jodhpur
	Amount	58.01	32.68	37.54	31.64	35.23	45.86	41.94	25.85
North Eastern	Izatnagar	Lucknow	Varanasi	Sonpur	Samastipur				
Division	Amount	21.42	29.96	25.55	22.89	20.34			
Northeast Frontier		Katihar	Alipurduar	Lumding	Tinsukhia				
Divisions	Amount	27.76	46.59	31.42	10.91				
Southern Division		Chennai	Palghat	Trivandrum	Bangalore	Mysore	Trichy	Madurai	
	Amount	56.36	44.28	28.97	26.42	13.08	22.97	28.69	
South Central	Secunderabad	Vijayawada	Guntakal	Bubli	Hyderabad				
Divisions	Amount	55.20	55.10	40.80	27.60	26.00			
South Division	KhurdaRoad	Waltair	Sambalpur	Nagpur	Bilaspur	Kharagpur	Chakradharpur	Adra	Eastern
	Amount	35.85	44.76	18.60	32.15	55.96	38.91	49.21	44.81
Western Divisions		Mumbai Central	Vadodara	Ratlam	Kota	Ajmer	Jaipur	Bhavnagar	Rajkot
	Amount	34.89	36.64	33.80	39.84	21.72	25.78	18.17	17.32